forum. The officials concerned will get full opportunity to defend themselves as and when departmental proceedings are started.

Allocation for Exploration of Tapti Gas Fields

2651. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation proposed for exploration of Tapti Gas Fields during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the quantity of gas from Tapti Gas Fields is likely to be allocated to Gujarat; and

(c) the gas allocation made for power projects in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). This has not been finalised.

(c) The present commitment is 7.55 MMSCMD (not from Tapti field).

[*Translation*]

Pakistanis Residing Permanently in India

2652. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Pakistani citizens are permanently residing in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)-Ever since partition, minority community in Pakistan have been migrating to India. Presently, Pakistani nationals are coming to India on short term visas. Some of them do apply for long term visa for the purpose of staying here permanently and their cases are considered on merit. No details are available as such. Information is maintained by the State Govt./UT Admn.

[*English*]

Land Fertility of Indo-Gangetic Plain

2653. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether land fertility in the Indo-Gangetic plain had decreased due to increase in the salinity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) wherever the lands have been affected by the salinity the general fertility of the soil goes down. The decrease in crop production occurs due to toxic effects of salts on plant tissues, limited uptake of essential plant nutrients, removal of water from plant growth etc., decrease of the land fertility in the saline soils for Indo-gangetic plains has enhanced in the irrigated areas.

It is estimated that approximately 2.5 m.ha. area of the Indo-gangetic plain spread over in the States of Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Bihar, Rajasthan and M.P. is affected by soil salinity.

(c) To control the problem of soil salinity, the Command Area Development Programme of the Ministry of Water Resources envisages the following measures:

(i) on-farm development works of constructing the field channels, land levelling and land shaping;